

# **COLUSA COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

## **Minutes of Public Meeting**

**March 1, 2000**

The meeting of the Colusa County Children and Families Commission was called to order at 1:38 p.m. in the Morse Conference Room at the Colusa Library, 738 Market Street, Colusa, California. Commissioners Dolores Gomez, Nolan Gonzales, Barbara Hankins, Nancy Parriott, and Christy Scofield were present, constituting a quorum.

Items discussed and actions taken in accordance with the publicly-posted agenda were as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes: February 8, 2000 Meeting

Commissioner Gomez moved to approve the minutes without correction; motion seconded by Commissioner Parriott. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote (5/0).

2. Report on Funds

No new funds have been received from the State Commission since the last report.

3. Review Outstanding Invoices and Approve Payment of Expenses

The following invoices and expenses were presented to the Commission for approval: (1) \$200 for four nights of service by the translator / facilitator for the town meetings; (2) costs of food, supplies, and other expenses incurred at Chung Sun and by the Commissioners for the town meetings; (3) expenses incurred by Commissioner Scofield for conferences attended in 1999 on behalf of the Commission; (4) invoice from Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. for January consulting fees and expenses in the amount of \$4,734.94; and (5) invoice from Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. for February consulting fees and expenses in the amount of \$5,701.22.

A consent motion was made by Commissioner Parriott and seconded by Commissioner Hankins to approve payment of all expenses presented. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote (5/0). Commissioner Scofield also volunteered to write a letter to Chung Sun thanking them for their donations of food for the town meetings.

4. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Colusa and the Colusa County Children and Families Commission

Commissioner Scofield distributed the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and reviewed its contents with the Commission. Commissioner Parriott moved to approve the MOU and to have it submitted to the Board of Supervisors for their approval; motion seconded by Commissioner Gomez. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote (5/0). Commissioner Scofield indicated that the MOU must be reviewed again by Don Stanton, County Counsel, and will be placed on the Board of Supervisors agenda as soon as possible.

5. Adoption of Guiding Mission and Vision Statements

The draft mission and vision statements included in the meeting packet were discussed by all attendees, with modifications made based on the discussions. The amended statements are:

Mission – The Colusa County Children and Families Commission is committed to enhancing the lives of all children prenatal to age five and their families through a countywide, comprehensive, integrated system of early childhood development.

Vision – We envision an era when all children in Colusa County spend their early childhood years in positive surroundings that help them to reach their full potential. Children are born healthy and enjoy happy lives in supportive, nurturing and loving environments. They are healthy, resilient, well-adjusted, and ready to learn when they reach kindergarten. Their journey through childhood is enhanced by parents and caregivers that are informed, capable, and confident in their ability to guide children toward becoming productive members of society.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hankins and seconded by Commissioner Parriott to adopt the mission and vision statements as amended. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote (5/0). It was noted that these statements can be modified further as the strategic planning process proceeds.

6. Progress of Assessment of Community Needs and Resources

Mike Smith distributed a report that compiles the results of the four town meetings held in February to gather community input on the needs of families and the kinds of services that are desired by parents. Another town meeting will be held in Grimes as soon as it can be scheduled. The general impression was that turnout at the town meetings was rather low but that extremely valuable input was obtained. Parents identified the same core issues across all of the locations and discussion groups.

The results of the community surveys received to date have been compiled, and a report showing the raw data from the survey was distributed. More surveys should be received during the next week or two.

The Commission decided that an additional survey should be distributed to service providers and professionals that deal with young children and families. This survey needs to go out as soon as possible. Persons to receive the survey should include teachers and others in the education system, child care providers, public health professionals, health care providers (clinics, hospital, physicians), mental health providers, social services / Children's Services staff, representatives of the two incorporated cities, Casa de Esperanza, law enforcement personnel (including Public Defenders), family law facilitator, the ministerial association, Career Resource Center, Interagency Council, and Kevin Wheeler at the jail. Mike Smith will take care of issuing the survey by mail to all providers and professionals possible and compile the responses. Commissioners Parriott and Gomez will provide names and addresses of people to include in the mailing. The draft provider survey included in the meeting packet was approved for use as is.

7. Establishment of Office and Other Points of Contact for the Public

An offer has been received from Career Resources to use their phone number and address as a point of public contact, at least until they relocate. Commissioner Gomez also noted the possibility of using open space at Children's Services. This topic was continued until the next meeting.

8. Approve Activities and Expenses for Participation in the Family Fair

The Commission decided to limit participation at the Family Fair to the distribution of informational flyers about Proposition 10 and possibly having a visible poster board at the event. Mike Smith will check with the State Commission on the availability of posters, possibly drawing upon the billboards that have been put up all over the state.

9. Approve Invitation to the State Commission to Hold a State Meeting in Colusa County

A motion was made by Commissioner Parriott and seconded by Commissioner Hankins to send a letter to the State Commission inviting them to hold one of the monthly state meetings in Colusa County. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote (5/0). The target would be to host the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the State Commission. Commissioner Scofield will prepare and send the letter as the Chair. It was noted that the availability of facilities should be checked soon, since school starts early this year. The Pierce High School auditorium in Arbuckle was mentioned as a possible meeting place.

10. Public Comment

- Mike Smith presented a brief report on the State Commission meeting held on February 17<sup>th</sup>. An item of note is that the "Welcome Baby" kits now look like they will not be available until July at the earliest. The State Commission expressed a clear commitment to working with the County Commissions on the completion and distribution of these kits. Also, Sacramento County has initiated regional meetings of county Commission representatives to share ideas. Mike Smith will see if Colusa County can be included in future meetings. Finally, the State Commission now has the technical capacity to host web sites for counties. The Commission verbally authorized Mike Smith to contact the State Commission about getting their assistance in setting up a web site for Colusa County.
- Bonnie Marshall is planning to send someone to a conference called "Safe From The Start", to be held in Los Angeles in May. This conference was noted in the State Commission report.
- Technical assistance conference calls with the State Commission will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> (topic: "Objectives and Priorities for State Commission Funding and Activities") and March 10<sup>th</sup> (topic: "County Commission Administration and Finance"). Mike Smith will participate in both calls and report on the results at the next Commission meeting.
- A monthly status report for February was distributed by Mike Smith showing progress and costs to date for the strategic planning process. The needs assessment process is now expected to take about two weeks longer than originally planned, but it should still be possible to finish the strategic plan by the mid-July target.
- Kern County issued a request to the other county Commissions seeking interest in providing independent evaluators of proposals submitted by service providers seeking Prop 10 funding. A brief discussion occurred where it was determined that Colusa County is not interested in participating in such an evaluation process at this time. Mike Smith will send an appropriate response to Kern County.

- Staffing changes at Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. were noted. Mike McMahon is moving to a position with the State of Nevada, while Sarah Longaker is joining SEI full-time on April 1.
- Mike Smith asked permission to share surveys, guidelines, and other materials developed in Colusa County with other county Commissions when requested or appropriate. Permission was granted, with the note that many types of materials are expected to be received from other counties so this is a valuable reciprocal process.

11. Dates for Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. at the Morse Conference Room at the Colusa Library.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Mike Smith, consultant to the Commission.